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spaces



PORTLAND

2008
Design Awards

Portland's 20 best places
to live, work, and play

+ Masters &
Rising Stars

Mayor Sam's
Modest Proposal

The City's Classic
Ballrooms

DEC 08 / JAN 09 \$4.99

DISPLAY UNTIL JANUARY 11



Check out our winning
home (pictured) plus
winners in 21 other
categories on page 59.

PORTLANDSPACES.NET

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PORTLAND, WORLD

Ever since Portland architect Pietro Belluschi emerged from an ambitious local practice to design such storied landmarks as Manhattan's Pan Am (now Met Life) Building and San Francisco's St. Mary's Cathedral, Portland has had cachet as an exporter of design. In recent years, the city's architecture firms have designed nearly a dozen buildings for the University of California system and have master-planned entire communities in China. Industrial designers are fashioning miniature cameras and microsurgery operating tables. Small wonder that according to Greenlight Greater Portland, a new industry group promoting the city's creative economy, Portland boasts a design workforce nearly 7,000 strong with growth in the coming decade expected to top 11 percent.

With an eye toward expanding future Root Awards programs to the many other design disciplines shaping both Portland's business community and its global image, we created an unusual and special category named after our regular magazine department "Portland, World" to celebrate the best of our design exports.

Judging the entrants was no small challenge for our jurors, who had to weigh, for instance, the relative merits of a sneaker or a bike lock against those of a performing arts facility. The nominees were great sports for entering—as were the judges for making the call. But the real winner is Portland, for having such a diversity of design talent. —Randy Gragg

► WINNER

Hotel Murano

Tacoma, Washington

Never has the old saying "turning a sow's ear into a silk purse" been exemplified better than in this transformation of a Sheraton Hotel into the sophisticated, glassy Hotel Murano. Interior design firm Corso Staicoff polished the building's quintessential 1980s-era bunker-Modernism into a sleek display case for a collection of fine-art glass. Each of the 21 guest floors features the work of a single artist. The rooms are studies in timelessness, as are the materials, with features like 100 percent recycled drapes and carpets made of EcoQ solution-dyed nylon, the fibers of which can be reused forever. The hope is that through aesthetic and material durability, the Hotel Murano will extend the typical five- to seven-year life span of most hotel furnishings.

